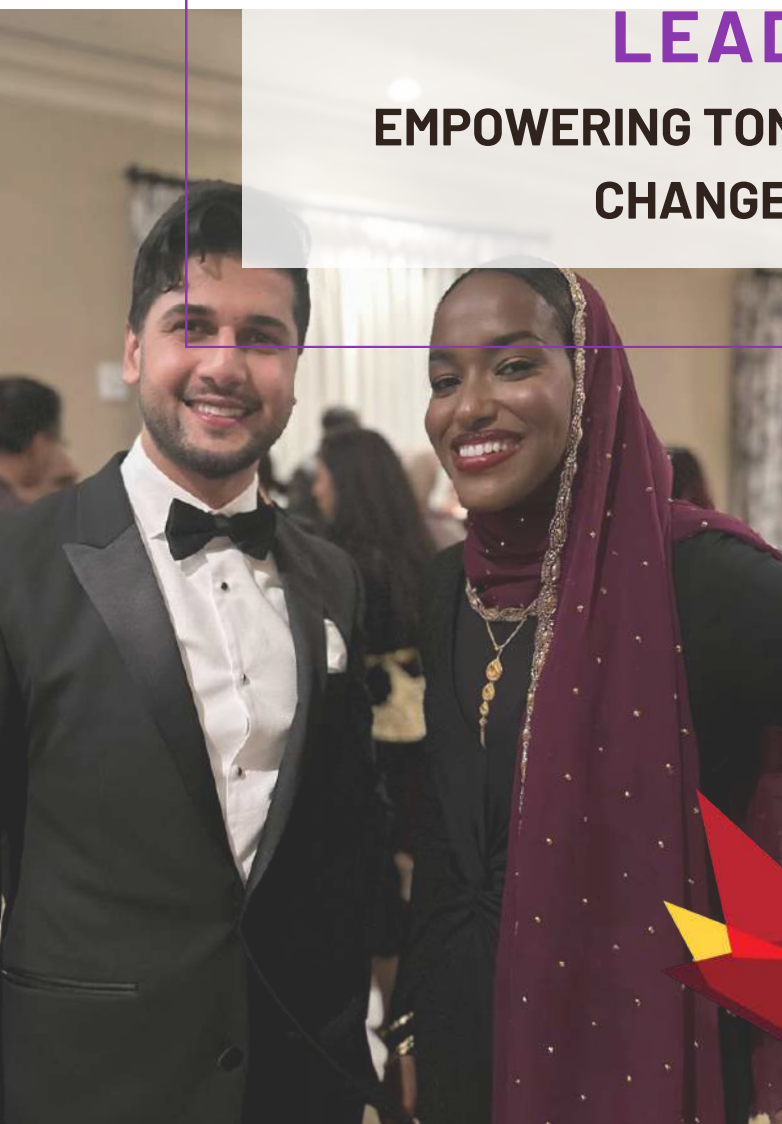




THE CONCORDIA
YOUTH
2026

THE YOUNG CONCORDIA LEADERS

EMPOWERING TOMORROW'S MUSLIM
CHANGEMAKERS



2026 APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

Now in its **fourth year**, applications are now **OPEN** for the 2026 Young Concordia Leaders Fellowship - our flagship leadership programme for young Muslims in the West, taking place this year in **Cape Town, South Africa**.

APPLY HERE

Key Dates:

Young Concordia Leadership Programme. **25 – 29 Oct 2026**

Concordia Forum Annual Retreat. **29 Oct – 1 Nov 2026**



info@theconcordiaforum.com

YCL PROGRAMME STRUCTURE



The YCL Fellowship is designed to cultivate ethical, purpose-driven leaders from across the western Muslim world. Each stage builds intentionally on the last, moving from virtual connection to immersive residential experience to the highest levels of global dialogue.

Virtual Workshops

Autumn 2026

01

The fellowship begins with a series of virtual workshops designed to build community before Fellows meet in person. Sessions focus on contextual grounding, skills-building, peer exchange, and guided reflections on leadership through a faith-informed lens – laying the intellectual and relational foundation for the journey ahead.

Leadership Retreat - Cape Town, South Africa

25–29 October 2026

02

Fellows convene in Cape Town for their own dedicated leadership retreat, an immersive five-day space for deep reflection, strategic thinking, and intentional community-building. Led by world-class trainers and scholars, Fellows explore faith-informed approaches to leadership, work closely with mentors and facilitators, and strengthen the bonds that will anchor their journey. Cape Town provides an inspiring backdrop for this transformative experience.

17th Concordia Forum Annual Retreat

29 October – 1 November 2026

03

The fellowship culminates as YCL Fellows are fully integrated into the Concordia Forum Annual Retreat, joining 250+ senior leaders from across the western Muslim world. This unparalleled gathering offers high-level dialogues, cross-sector networking, and intergenerational exchange at the very highest levels, giving Fellows immediate access to the most distinguished network of Muslim leaders anywhere in the world.

info@theconcordiaforum.com



WHO SHOULD APPLY?

We are looking for exceptional early-career western Muslim professionals who are committed to leading with integrity, purpose, and global vision.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

AGE

Between 25 and 30 years old by 25th October 2026.

LEADERSHIP POTENTIAL

Demonstrated commitment to ethical and inclusive leadership, with a track record of impact in your field or community.

LANGUAGE

Proficient in English; all programme activities are conducted in English.

AVAILABILITY

Available to travel to Cape Town, South Africa (25th October - 1st November 2026) to take part in the YCL retreat as well as the main Concordia Forum Retreat.

VALUES ALIGNMENT

Strong alignment with the values of the Concordia Forum: intellectual curiosity, commitment to service, and a desire to contribute positively to global society.

ABOUT THE CONCORDIA FORUM



17 YEARS OF UNITING VISIONARIES, INSPIRING CHANGE, TRANSFORMING LIVES

For over 17 years, the Concordia Forum has stood as the preeminent global network for Muslim leaders, changemakers, and innovative thinkers. Our mission is to foster meaningful dialogue, nurture transformative leadership, and catalyse impactful change across continents and sectors.

Key Features:

- **Annual Retreats:** Our signature events bring together 180+ diverse Muslim leaders for intensive networking, brainstorming, and collaboration.
- **Global Reach:** With over 2,500 alumni worldwide, we connect leaders from politics, academia, media, business, and more.
- **Trust-Building:** We create safe spaces for difficult, strategic conversations that drive progress.
- **Year-round Engagement:** From private networking events to trans-Atlantic policy conferences.
- **Young Concordia Leaders (YCL):** With over 60+ alumni, our fellowship programme nurtures the next generation of Muslim changemakers aged 25-30.



CULTIVATING A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP

An exclusive
fellowship nurturing
visionary leaders aged
25-30

Flagship Global Muslim Fellowship

The Young Concordia Leaders (YCL) Fellowship, a flagship initiative of the Concordia Forum, is dedicated to nurturing the next generation of Muslim changemakers.

For over a decade and a half, the Concordia Forum has curated one of the world's most prestigious networks of Muslim leaders. Now, with YCL, we're investing in your future. The YCL Fellowship is designed to cultivate ethical, purpose-driven leaders from across the western Muslim world. Each stage builds intentionally on the last, moving from virtual connection to immersive residential experience to the highest levels of global dialogue.

Accelerating Emerging Muslim Leadership

Our global community of over 2,500 alumni spans diverse sectors, from politics and academia to entrepreneurship and the arts. YCL builds on this legacy, offering unparalleled opportunities for young leaders to grow, connect, and make a lasting impact.

Our Fellows graduate with new skills, deep relationships and inspired visions, enriching their communities, places of work and the wider world.

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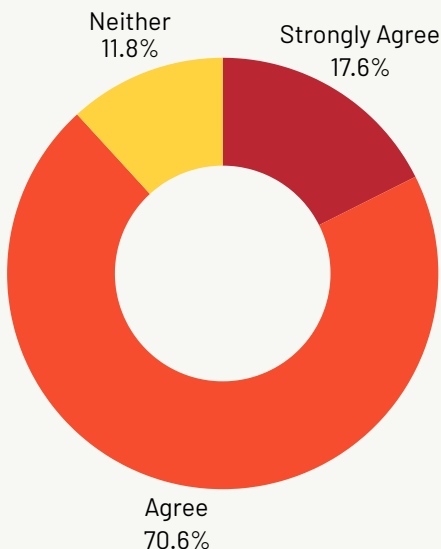
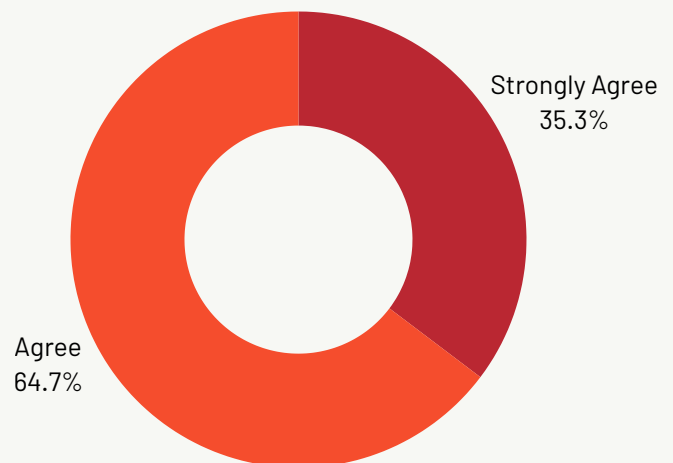
CATALYSING CHANGE INSPIRING ACTION

IMPACT OF PREVIOUS YCL COHORTS



The YCL experience has deepened my understanding and appreciation of diverse cultures and spiritual perspectives.

100% Agree

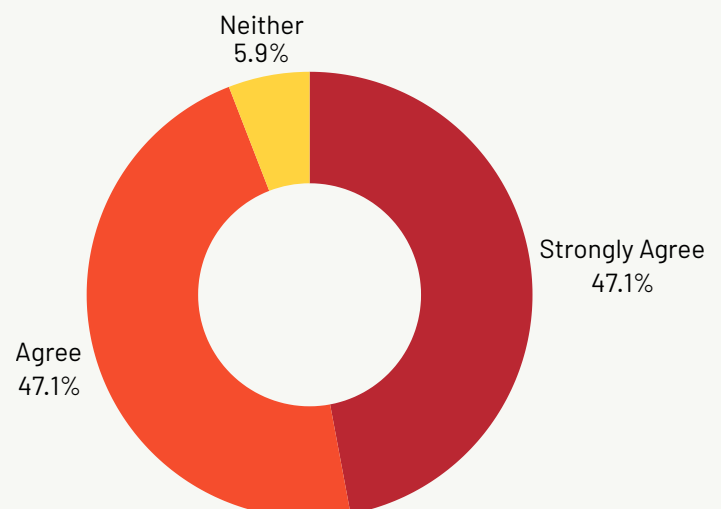


The YCL journey (so far) has been pivotal in my personal development and self-discovery

89% Agree

My leadership has been significantly enhanced through my participation on the YCL Fellowship

94% Agree



A JOURNEY OF TRANSFORMATION AND DISCOVERY

THE YCL FELLOWSHIP OFFERS A COMPREHENSIVE RESIDENTIAL
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCE

BUILDING TRUST THROUGH FELLOWSHIP

Immersive 5-day leadership retreat led by world-class trainers and scholars - followed by integration with the main Concordia Forum, providing direct access to 250+ established senior leaders from across the western Muslim world.

INTELLECTUAL AND SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

Workshops on Islamic and secular leadership frameworks by globally renowned thought leaders across different sectors. With ongoing mentorship and alumni programming.

ENGENDERING SERVICE BACK TO SOCIETY

Reframing the leadership trajectory of emerging Muslim leaders, grounded in a spirit of service and collaboration and facilitated through unparalleled access to decision makers at the highest levels.



YCL: IN THEIR OWN WORDS



"YCL is truly a one-of-a-kind space that has inspired me deeply like no other program ever has. The conversations, the energy, and the friendships built during that week continue to shape me long after participating in 2024. Since then, I'm a proud Concordian."

Wassim Essebane

Digital Marketing Freelancer & Founder
Belgium

"The most remarkable thing with YCL is how much one grows in a little over a week, and yet filled with inspiration for an entire lifetime."

Tamina Sheriffdeen Rauf

Member of Oslo City Council
Norway



"YCL is one of those experiences that must be – experienced. Its profound and transformative effect for young leaders cannot adequately be described in words. Participation for those honored with selection is worthwhile – and a must."

Abdullah Budeir

Founder, Aldebaran Group
USA



"When I joined YCL, I was surprised to find myself on such a beautifully intense spiritual journey, one that allowed me to understand so much more of who I am as a person – a Palestinian/Egyptian woman breaking boundaries, a leader, a writer – but also a Muslim."

At YCL, I found a community that felt like family, and I left Spain making a promise to myself: I will never stop fighting to make this world a better, safer, and more just place for us."

Alaa Elassar

CNN Reporter
USA